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Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

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Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[1] which attests to the broad and substantive cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union over the past two years,

Taking note of the resolutions adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and circulated in the General Assembly and the many activities undertaken by the organization in support of the United Nations,

Taking note also of the outcomes of the World Conferences of Speakers of Parliament held in 2000, 2005 and 2010, which affirm the commitment of national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to support the work of the United Nations and continue efforts to bridge the democracy gap in international relations,

Taking into consideration the Cooperation Agreement between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union of 1996,[2] which laid the foundation for cooperation between the two organizations,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] as well as the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[4] in which Heads of State and Government resolved to

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[1] A/68/827.

[2] A/51/402, annex.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

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strengthen further cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments through their world organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in all fields of the work of the United Nations,

Recalling also its resolution 57/32 of 19 November 2002, in which the Inter-Parliamentary Union was invited to participate in the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer, as well as resolutions 57/47 of 21 November 2002, 59/19 of 8 November 2004, 61/6 of 20 October 2006 and 63/24 of 18 November 2008,

Recalling and further endorsing its resolutions 65/123 of 13 December 2010 and 66/261 of 29 May 2012, in which the General Assembly, inter alia, decided to pursue a more systematic engagement with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in organizing and integrating a parliamentary component of and contribution to major United Nations deliberative processes and the review of international commitments,

Welcoming the annual parliamentary hearings at the United Nations, as well as other specialized parliamentary meetings organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in cooperation with the United Nations in the context of major United Nations conferences and events,

Welcoming in particular the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in mobilizing parliamentary action towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by the target date of 2015, as well as in bringing a parliamentary contribution to the design of the next generation of global development goals,

Recognizing the growing role of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs in providing a platform for regular interaction between parliamentarians and United Nations officials, reviewing implementation of international commitments, facilitating closer ties between United Nations country teams and national parliaments and helping shape a parliamentary input to major United Nations processes,

Recognizing also the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the areas of gender equality, the empowerment of women and combating violence against women, and the close cooperation between the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the relevant United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,

Acknowledging the role and responsibility of national parliaments in regard to national plans and strategies, as well as in ensuring greater transparency and accountability at both national and global levels,

1. *Welcomes* the actions taken by the Inter-Parliamentary Union to pursue a more systematic engagement with the United Nations;

2. *Encourages* the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to continue to work closely in various fields, in particular peace and security, economic and social development, climate change, international law, human rights and gender issues, democracy and good governance, bearing in mind the significant

[a] See resolution 60/1.

benefits of cooperation between the two organizations, to which the report of the Secretary-General attests;[1]

3. *Also encourages* the continued active involvement of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in mobilizing parliamentary action to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to provide input to the design of the post-2015 development agenda, and emphasizes the importance of the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union continuing to work closely together with a view to promoting the enhanced contribution of parliaments at the national level and the Inter-Parliamentary Union at the global level in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda;

4. *Encourages* the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to strengthen cooperation on issues related to the dialogue between civilizations, culture, education and information and communication technologies;

5. *Welcomes* the preparations currently under way for the organization of the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, in 2015, and encourages the conduct of these preparations in close cooperation with the United Nations, with a view to holding the Conference at United Nations Headquarters in New York as part of the series of high-level meetings in 2015, and maximizing political support for the outcome of the summit on the post-2015 development agenda;[5]

6. *Welcomes* the practice of including legislators as members of national delegations to major United Nations meetings and events, as appropriate, including new forums, such as the United Nations high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Economic and Social Council Youth Forum, and invites Member States to continue this practice in a more regular and systematic manner;

7. *Invites* Member States to further consider ways to work regularly with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in facilitating a parliamentary component to major United Nations conferences and in more closely linking the annual parliamentary hearing at the United Nations to the main United Nations processes, so as to help inform such deliberations from a parliamentary perspective;

8. *Encourages* Member States to consider applying the practice of the joint United Nations-Inter-Parliamentary Union parliamentary hearing to other parliamentary meetings convened in conjunction with major United Nations conferences and processes, such as the parliamentary meeting organized on the occasion of the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women, with a view to including the outcome of these parliamentary meetings as a formal contribution to the respective United Nations processes;

9. *Welcomes* the contribution of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to the work of the Human Rights Council, notably by providing a more robust parliamentary contribution to the universal periodic review and to the United Nations human rights treaty bodies along the lines of the cooperation developed in recent years between the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and national parliaments whose countries are under review;

10. *Invites* UN-Women to work closely with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in such areas as the empowerment of women, institutional gender mainstreaming,

[5] See resolution 68/6, para. 26.

support to parliaments in promoting gender-sensitive legislation, increasing the representation of women in parliaments, combating violence against women and the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions;

11. *Encourages* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to further assist in developing closer cooperation between the United Nations and parliaments at the national level, including in terms of strengthening parliamentary capacities, reinforcing the rule of law and helping to align national legislation with international commitments;

12. *Calls upon* United Nations country teams to develop a more structured and integrated manner of working with national parliaments, inter alia, by involving parliaments in consultations on national development strategies and on development aid effectiveness;

13. *Encourages* the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to more systematically avail themselves of the unique expertise of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and its member parliaments in strengthening parliamentary institutions, particularly in countries emerging from conflict and/or in transition to democracy;

14. *Calls for* a regular annual exchange between the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the senior leadership of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, with a view to building greater coherence in the work of the two organizations, maximizing parliamentary support for the United Nations and helping to forge a strategic partnership between the two organizations;

15. *Recommends* that a new Cooperation Agreement between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union be drawn up, so as to reflect progress and developments over the past years and to place the institutional relationship between the two organizations on a strong footing;

16. *Decides*, in recognition of the unique role of national parliaments in support of the work of the United Nations, to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union", and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report under this item.